

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 IO-10 /076 W

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R 072220Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9668

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: BORDER INCIDENTS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

1. EL CRONISTA REPORTED SALVADORAN INCURSIONS INTO HONDURAN TERRITORY IN ITS APRIL 7 EDITION. THE SENSATIONALIST STORY STATES THAT THERE WERE EXCHANGES OF GUNFIRE BETWEEN SALVADORANS AND HONDURANS DURING HOLY WEEK ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT OCCASIONS AND THAT THREE HONDURAN VILLAGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEMPIRA WERE IN THE HANDS OF ARMED SALVADORAN CIVILIANS. IT ALSO GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE SALVADORANS ARE DRILLING WELLS, OPENING SCHOOLS AND INSTALLING EQUIPMENT IN THE AREA.

2. POLOFF QUERIED FOREIGN MINISTRY COUNSELOR VIRGILIO GALVEZ ABOUT STORY. GALVEZ REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INCIDENTS AND SHOWED POLOFF DOCUMENTS FROM THE HONDURAN MILITARY DESCRIBING THE SITUATION. THE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE WAS A SALVADORAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT OVER THE HONDURAN BORDER ON MARCH 23 CLOSE TO THE TOWN OF VALLADOLID IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEMPIERA. THE
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REPORTS ALSO INDICATE THAT THERE WERE EXCHANGES OF

RIFLE, MACHINE GUN AND MORTAR FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF THE BORDER NEAR VALLODOLID. ANOTHER REPORT STATED THAT THERE WAS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN THE SAME LOCATION ON MARCH 29.

3. GALVEZ TOLD POLOFF THAT MINISTRY UNAWARE OF ANY REASON FOR INCIDENTS. HE OBSERVED THAT AREA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF A NUMBER OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE PAST AND SPECULATED THAT IT WAS JUST A CONTINUATION OF THAT SITUATION. HE SAID THAT GOH DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY PROTEST ABOUT LATEST INCIDENTS.
SANCHEZ

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